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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/383,579	08/25/1999	MICHAEL MEYRICK BURRELL	9341-018-999	6768

7590

03/26/2003

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EXAMINER

BAUM, STUART F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/383,579

Applicant(s)

BURRELL ET AL.

Examiner

Stuart F. Baum

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Objection is made to claim 4 which specifies a DNA sequence by the term Ex29. 37 CFR 1.821(d) requires the use of the assigned sequence identifier (e.g. SEQ I.D. NO: X) in all instances where the description or claims of a patent application discuss sequences.
2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-6, 16, and 18, drawn to a method of transforming trees to modify the fibre characteristics in trees comprising transforming said plant with any gene that modifies the extension of fibre cell walls , classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

Claims 1 and 2 link SEQ ID NO:1-6 and sequence ex29. The restriction requirement between the linked sequences is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1 and 2. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked sequences shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are

Art Unit: 1638

no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971).

See also MPEP § 804.01.

For the election to be complete, Applicant is required to elect one sequence from the following list and to specify if the sequence is from *Eucalyptus* or cucumber:

SEQ ID NO:1;	SEQ ID NO:2;	SEQ ID NO:3;
SEQ ID NO:4;	SEQ ID NO:5;	SEQ ID NO:6.

- II. Claims 7-15 and 17, drawn to drawn to a chimaeric gene comprising a nucleic acid operably linked to a promoter in sense orientation and terminator, and transformed tree, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.
- III. Claims 7-15 and 17, drawn to drawn to a chimaeric gene comprising a nucleic acid operably linked to a promoter in antisense orientation and terminator, and transformed tree, classified in class 800, subclass 290 for example.

For the election to be complete, Applicant is required to elect one sequence from the following list:

SEQ ID NO:1;	SEQ ID NO:2;	SEQ ID NO:3;
SEQ ID NO:4;	SEQ ID NO:5;	SEQ ID NO:6.

- 3. Claims 6, 9-16 and 18 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot be dependent on a claim that is a multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Correction is required.
- 4. Inventions I-III are unrelated to each other because nucleotide sequences either encoding different proteins, or specifying specific expression patterns and non-coding nucleic acid sequences are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another, as are

Art Unit: 1638

different proteins structurally distinct chemical compounds and unrelated to one another. In the present application, Applicants are claiming a nucleic acid molecules in sense and antisense orientation. It is recognized in the art, that nucleic acid molecules in antisense orientation are used to down-regulate the expression or reduce the activity of a specific protein whereas over-expressing a nucleic acid molecule in sense orientation is used to upregulate or increase the activity of a specific protein. Therefore, these sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434). This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide and amino acid sequence is not a member of a single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

5. Inventions I and II-III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the method of Group I can be used with other nucleic acid sequences other than the ones claimed in Groups II or III. For example, any nucleic acid sequences that encode polypeptides involved in auxin or gibberellin metabolism or catabolism will affect cell wall extensibility.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the literature and sequence

Art Unit: 1638

searches required for each of the Groups are not required for another of the Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stuart Baum whose telephone number is (703) 305-6997. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on (703) 306-3218. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3014 or (703) 305-3014 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, who may be contacted at 308-0196.

Stuart F. Baum Ph.D.

March 17, 2003


PHUONG T. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER